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Agenda item 71

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Afghanistan, Angola, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Lesotho, Lithuania, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sweden and Uruguay: revised draft resolution

Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purpose of the United Nations to maintain peace and security and, in this context, reaffirming in particular the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, as well as the commitment of Member States to take concrete steps in order to strengthen that role,

Convinced that a comprehensive and integrated approach towards certain practical disarmament measures, such as, inter alia, arms control, particularly with regard to small arms and light weapons, confidence-building measures, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, demining and conversion, often is a prerequisite to maintaining and consolidating peace and security and thus provides a basis for effective rehabilitation and social and economic development,

Noting in this context the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace" 1/ and "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace", 2/ in which

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1/ A/47/277-S/24111.

2/ A/50/60-S/1995/1.

the Secretary-General inter alia stressed the urgent need for "practical disarmament in the context of the conflicts the United Nations is actually dealing with and of the weapons, most of them light weapons, that are actually killing people in the hundreds of thousands", 3/ and in which, with regard to practical disarmament measures, the Secretary-General stated that "the assembly, control and disposal of weapons has been a central feature of most of the comprehensive peace settlements in which the United Nations has played a peacekeeping role", 4/

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 M of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 B and 50/70 J of 12 December 1995 concerning small arms and light weapons, as well as the control and the illicit transfer of such weapons and, in this context, encouraging the work of the United Nations expert panel on small arms,

Welcoming the adoption by the Disarmament Commission of the "Guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991", 5/

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 H of 12 December 1995, in which it welcomed the initiative taken by Mali concerning the question of illicit circulation of small arms and their collection in the affected States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion, as well as the action taken by the Secretary-General in the implementation of that initiative,

Welcoming, in this context, the measures taken and other ongoing efforts by the Central African States to promote, within the framework of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, confidence-building and conflict prevention in their subregion,

Recalling its resolution 50/70 D of 12 December 1995 on transparency in armaments and continuing to take the view that an enhanced level of transparency could contribute to confidence-building and security among States,

Recalling its resolutions 50/70 O and 50/74 of 12 December 1995 and 50/82 of 14 December 1995 addressing the global landmine problem,

Welcoming the adoption on 3 May 1996 of a revised Protocol II by the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects 6/ as a further step, and also welcoming respective national measures adopted by a growing number of States,

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3/ Ibid., para. 60.

4/ Ibid., para. 62.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/51/42), annex I.

6/ CCW/CONF.1/16 (Part I), annex B.

1. Stresses the particular importance of certain practical disarmament measures, such as the collection, control and disposal of arms, especially small arms and light weapons, coupled with restraint over the production and procurement as well as transfers of such arms, the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, demining and conversion, for the maintenance and consolidation of peace and security in areas that have suffered from conflict;

2. Underlines the important role of the United Nations in providing a political framework for such practical disarmament measures in those areas and in facilitating their implementation;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in the light of experience gained from conflict resolution, to make recommendations and suggestions for an integrated approach to such practical disarmament measures, taking also into account the work of the United Nations expert panel on small arms, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in this connection, to seek the views of Member States on this subject and to include them in his report;

5. Calls upon Member States, as well as regional arrangements or agencies, to assist the Secretary-General in his endeavours in this regard and to contribute actively to the implementation of such practical disarmament measures;

6. Encourages United Nations organs and agencies to join in this task within the framework of their responsibilities, in particular the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the basis of its Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures".